

PROCEEDINGS OF PIERCE COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

October 3, 2023

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on October 3, 2023. Chairman Hoffert called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with members Bohl, Christenson, Bednarz, and Migler present.

Chairman Hoffert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Christenson to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Moved by Bednarz and seconded by Bohl to accept the September minutes as mailed. Motion carried.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to approve those bills previously paid and those yet unpaid were ordered paid. Motion carried.

Board reviewed Officer fee reports and hourly workers time sheets.

Curt Brown, custodian, joined the meeting. Brown informed the Board about the repairs he did to the lawn mowers and snowblower and also the repairs in the courthouse.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to approve Treasurer's checks #6327-#6331, in the amount of \$3,561.75, for the month of September. Motion carried.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to accept the financial report for the month of September. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by Glen Keller for tax year 2023 (2023-55) on the following described property E1/2NE1/4, E1/2SE1/4, section 9, 151-72. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to approve the abatement application for tax year 2023, as recommended by the Tax Director, as qualifies for Farm Residence Exemption. Motion carried.

Board reviewed letter received from North Dakota State Fair Association, requesting the Board to appoint delegates. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bednarz to appoint Don Jelsing and Sandra Scherr, as Delegates, with meeting to be held on November 15, 2023 at the FFA Hall of the State Fair Center, Minot, ND at 1:00 P.M. Motion carried.

The joint Boards of County Commissioners held the annual budget meeting for Lake Region District Health Unit by conference call at 8:30 A.M. Members present were Benson County, Eddy County, Pierce County, and Ramsey County. Meeting called to order by Jeff Frith. Frith called for nominations for Chairman. Dave Gehrtz, Eddy County, made a motion for Jeff Frith to be chairman, Blaine Volk, Ramsey County, seconded it. All present voting "Aye". Motion carried. Moved by Hoffert, Pierce County, and

seconded by Doris Griffin, Benson County, to approve the minutes. Motion carried. Denton Heisler, Administrator, Lake Region District Health, presented the 2024 budget. The amount requested is based on the taxable valuation of each county in the district. Moved by Gessner, Ramsey County, and seconded by Volk, Ramsey County, to approve the 2024 Lake Region District Health Budget. Upon roll call vote-Benson County Board members present "Aye", except Ron Stadum- "Nay", Eddy County- "Aye", Pierce County – "Aye", and Ramsey County – "Aye" Motion carried. Budget approved. Moved by Hoffert, Pierce County, to adjourn, seconded by Volk, Ramsey County. Meeting adjourned.

Josh Siegler, Pierce Co. Sheriff, and Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, joined the meeting.

Josh Siegler, Sheriff, gave the Board a report for the month of September, for the Sheriff's department. Total calls-41; Medical Calls-5; Fire Calls-3; Traffic Accidents-2; Assist Other Agencies-7: Prisoner Transports-3; Arrests 3 (1- Warrant, 1- Driving Under Suspension, 1-Drug Paraphernalia); Citations-14; Papers Served-10; Warrants Served-1. Siegler reported that he hired someone for dispatch and that she will start in November. He informed the Board that Deputy Gunville has returned back to work. Siegler reported that Graner started with his police academy training. Siegler briefly discussed the damage done at the Barton Park.

Board recessed to sit on the HACTC Board.

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, went over the bills for the month of September. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bednarz to approve those bills previously paid and those yet unpaid were ordered paid, for the month of September, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, gave the Board a report on the inmate population at the jail facility for September, which was 76 (ADP). Current inmate count is 81. High of 81 for September. Bookings 35, Releases 26. Pierce County inmate population for September was 5. Deficit of \$11,051.08 for the month of August. Personnel 21/24 officers. There was 1 resignation and 1 possibly returning to duty. Sending 2 to CO basic training next week. Graner reported for the capital project update that the steamer is in place in the kitchen. For the upgrade on the 18-20 cameras, he was still waiting to hear of the status on those. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to approve the financial report for the month of August, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Board reconvened at 9:25 A.M. with all members present.

Kelsey Siegler, Tax Director, joined the meeting. Siegler presented information on the 2024 Pierce County Soil Modifiers. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson, to approve the 2024 proposed soil type modifiers. Motion carried.

Board held hearing on the delinquent real estate, acquired through tax deed action, in accordance with Section 57-28-11, of the NDCC. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to sell the property for taxes owing and that the terms of the sale on November 21, 2023, be for cash only. Motion carried.

Christenson discussed the carpet tile for the Memorial Hall. Moved by Christenson and seconded by Bednarz to go ahead with the carpet tile from St. Michel Furniture. Motion carried.

Bednarz reported that there weren't any more bids for the heaters for the Memorial Hall. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to accept the bid from Christenson Electric for replacing heaters at the Memorial Hall. Motion carried.

Jon Nelson, State Representative, Frank LaRocque, Rugby Mayor, Neil Lotvedt, and Rick Srur joined the meeting.

As the hour of 10:00 A.M. was past, the 2024 Budget hearing was held. Nelson said he was concerned with the increase in proposed taxes, as a measure to eliminate taxes could be possibly added to the ballot in the next election. He said he is asking the Commission to be very conservative this next budget cycle. Hoffert said the State needs to get the information out to the voters of what the consequences would be if that were to pass. Services would be lost and local control would be lost. LaRocque said the City was very conservative and didn't raise taxes. Migler said the City has the tool chest which allows them to move funds from one department to another. The County doesn't have that option. They discussed the Legacy Fund and the Common School Trust Fund. Migler asked why some of those funds couldn't go to the schools and counties. Migler said that's why people get frustrated, they hear of all these funds the State has, but they can't use them. Nelson said anytime you have funds, some want to spend from them and some don't. Hoffert said the earnings could be spent. Hoffert agreed that the principal shouldn't be spent, but the earnings could. They all agreed that information needs to get out to educate the voters that eliminating taxes would not be a good thing for the future of our County.

Ted Keller, General Roofing, joined the meeting. Keller explained the third phase for the courthouse would be fixing the cornice. They would fix the current trim and would waterproof it. He said he would give a price with painting and without painting. If they do have to remove the paint, they would use dry ice and it would be much more costly. He said the project would be completed next summer and would take 2 to 3 months to complete.

Jessica Tagestad and Jesse Brandvold, Wold Engineering, joined the meeting. Tagestad reported that the Selz Project started September 18<sup>th</sup>. They are working on reshaping and then will haul gravel. It will take about two more weeks to complete. Brandvold talked about the County Federal Aid program and said the commissioners will be meeting with the D.O.T. at the Association of Counties conference, held in Bismarck October 8th-10<sup>th</sup>. They will discuss the next project to be done in 2024.

Lisa Coffman, Community Service Coordinator, joined the meeting. She gave a report for the Community Service Program for September. There were 4 new cases, open cases 15, closed compliant 3, and closed noncompliant 6. She also informed the Board that she will be moving in November, so unfortunately will have to resign her position.

As the hour of 11:30 A.M. was past, the Board opened the bids for propane, premium diesel fuel and gasoline. The following bids were received and declared in order: Harper Oil Company and Envision. Moved by Migler and seconded by Christenson to accept the following bids: Propane-Envision

\$1.44/gallon; Premium diesel fuel- Envison- daily price less \$.14 cents; Gasoline- Harper Oil-daily price less \$.10 cents per gallon.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Bednarz to approve the preliminary budget, as the final budget, beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024. Upon roll call vote- Bohl "Aye", Christenson "Aye", Bednarz "Aye", Migler "Aye", and Hoffert "Aye". Motion carried.

Bednarz informed the rest of the Board that he talked to Samantha Wentz from the Public Health Office. Wentz suggested that they hire Emily's Hope, who speaks to students of the dangers of fentanyl. Bednarz said it costs about \$3,000. for this speaker. They could use the opiod funds to pay for this valuable message. Board agreed this would be a good event.

Board discussed having the road department going back to 40 hours a week.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson, to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 P.M. Motion carried.

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Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer  
Pierce County, North Dakota

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Terry Hoffert, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

## SEPTEMBER EXPENDITURES

ND PERS \$552.46, ND Child Support \$77.50, Quadient Leasing \$182.97, NDTC \$1611.34, \$823.65, ND Post Board \$25, JP Morgan \$1782.09, Pierce Co. Payroll \$28581.77, \$8196.49, \$34.40, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$26.76, Pierce Co. Payroll \$81916.28, \$22850.72, \$37.34, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$230.01, AFLAC \$1204.36, Security Benefit \$1747.27, Colonial Life \$31.25, Ebix \$14.88, Nationwide \$1230, \$3134.03, Ottertail \$1240.49, \$5356.56, \$218.12, Pierce Co. Payroll \$66726.86, \$18484.02, \$36.36, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$86.14, Family Support Registry \$782, Kentucky Child Support \$60, ND PHIT \$67288.36, HACTC Bills \$55438.06, ND PERS \$36447.66, Berdahl, Jeff \$225, Hallof, Andy \$225, Bohl, Joe \$205.67, Christenson, Mike \$121.83, Migler, Dave \$225.98, Schaan, Anna \$87.77, Gingerich, Kaycee \$14, Advanced Business Methods \$208.61, Dakota Business Solutions \$466, Circle Sanitation \$156, Dacotah Paper \$192.70, Home of Economy \$210.97, \$79.99, Johnson's Plumbing \$639.85, Otis Elevator \$100, Rugby Hardware Hank \$570.63, Stein's \$183.93, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$80.81, Pierce Co. Tribune \$1026.28, Tyler Technologies \$4379.14, North Central Printing \$615, ITD \$3846.15, Brad's Towing \$384, Precision \$191.70, Spartan Firearms \$1200, HACTC \$10876.97, \$146.15, Redwood Toxicology \$56.37, Hager, Dustin \$75, Axtman, Michael \$260, Computer Express \$1450, Matthew Bender \$1213.24, Isolved \$266.17, NDACO \$17.55, Rugby Broadcasters \$76, Envision \$11591.62, Rugby Service Center \$1114.53, RDO \$4545.25, C & H Repair \$65, Dick's Electric \$895.55, HE Everson \$20.18, NAPA of Harvey \$10.99, Newman Signs \$46.71, Zeien, Paul \$55.02, \$100.22, Clute \$248.24, Klebe, Brenden \$237.11, Polar Communications \$6, NDTC \$203.66, Coffman, Lisa \$217.46, \$315.06, Christenson Electric \$125, Schaan Oil \$25.75, Ritterman \$73988.20, Motorola \$7760, Susag Sand & Gravel \$90, City of Rugby \$822.03, Linde \$152.13, Office of Attorney General \$295, Uniform Center \$654.63, Farden Construction \$296,001.06, Post Board \$45, Nexus Planning & Consulting \$7000, HACTC Resident Fund \$885, Quadient Finance \$200

Grand Total \$844,246.06